

Revelation

Bible Commentary 2020

by

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Chapter 1

Prologue (Revelation 1:1-3)

We receive a promise from God that those who read this prophecy and keep the things written in this prophecy will be blessed.

To understand the statements "the time is at hand" we must consider that God looks at time differently than we do. With God a thousand years are like a day, and a day can be like a thousand years. From the perspective of heaven, then, this statement is true: "the time is at hand".

What time is this? The time for the fulfillment of everything recorded in this book of Revelation. God has revealed to his Son Jesus Christ everything in this book. Jesus sends an angel to John to show him the vision of what is recorded in this book. This book is the word of God and it is the testimony of Jesus Christ. The things written in this book will happen.

These things will shortly come to pass. This is God's testimony. These things will shortly come to pass. From the perspective of eternity all of the events in this book shortly come to pass.

It seems like we have waited a long time for the fulfillment of this book of Revelation. But from heaven perhaps only a moment has passed.

No matter how we may interpret time, the events in this book are true. Everything recorded in this book will come to pass. God wants us to know what will happen, so that when it happens we will believe that he is who he said he is. God is outside of time. He tells us everything we need to know about the past, present, and the future so we can be saved and be reconciled back to him through what Jesus Christ accomplished through his death, burial, and resurrection.

John Greet The Seven Churches (Revelation 1:4-8)

Jesus is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the ending, which was, and which was, and which is to come. This means the Lord was there in the past, he is here in the present, and he is already in the future. He is eternal. He is outside of time as we know it. He is past, present, and future. This

demonstrates that God is three in one. God's nature and character is triune. God is three in one. He is Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit.

John addresses this book to the seven churches in Asia. He greets them with grace and peace. Who are the seven Spirits before God's throne? I don't know, but it is easy to see that the number seven is important in the book of Revelation and in the Bible. It is repeated through this entire book. Seven seals, seven bowls, and seven trumpets. The time period of earth history covered in Revelation is seven years.

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness. There is no other reliable witness except Jesus Christ. Jesus told his disciples if they saw him they saw the Father. He is the perfect representative of God. He is the ultimate revelation of who God is. He is the way, the truth, and the life. No one can know God except by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the first begotten of the dead. He was not the first person in the bible raised from the dead. There were people even in the Old Testament raised from the dead. But the resurrection of Jesus Christ is unique. Jesus rose from the dead to never die again. Everyone else in the Bible who rose from the dead died again. Jesus will never again. He defeated death. When Jesus rose from the dead it was to never die again. In this sense, he is the first begotten of the dead. He is the head of a new man and a new race of men. He washed us from our sins in his own blood.

The Lord has made us to be kings and priests unto God the Father. We can scarcely comprehend what that means yet.

The Lord will return. He is coming back in the clouds and every body will see him. People will wail because of him.

Are you ready? Call on the name of the Lord. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

John's Vision on Patmos (Revelation 1:9-20)

John was exiled to the island of Patmos because of his uncompromising faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. John was a Christian and declares plainly he is a brother, a companion in tribulation, and a participant in God's kingdom and the patient waiting for Jesus Christ. He was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and heard God speak to him. The voice was like a trumpet, and the voice said to John, "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last." This voice is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is God. He gives John specific instructions to write down in a book what he will see and then send it to the seven churches in Asia.

When John hears the voice speaking to him he turns to see who it is, and we get a detailed description of the Lord Jesus Christ. John says that Jesus is clothed with a garment down to the foot and is girdled about his chest with a golden belt. His hair was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes filled with fire. His feet were like brass burning in a furnace and his voice like a waterfall.

John says Jesus had seven stars in his right hand and out of his mouth went a sharp sword, and his face was as bright as the noon day sun.

John could not stay on his feet when he saw Jesus. He fell down and passed out completely. The Lord Jesus touched him with his right hand and told him not to be afraid. Jesus said to him again that he is the first and the last. Jesus was dead but rose from the dead and is alive forever. Jesus holds the keys of hell and death. Jesus tells John to write down what he sees in this vision.

The seven stars and the seven golden candlesticks are the seven churches. This book will be written and a copy sent to each of those churches.

John's response at seeing Jesus is the same as others in the bible who experienced this kind of vision. Daniel would fall down and pass out, too. The human body and soul cannot stand in the presence of God unless God gives man the ability to do so. We are the creatures. He is the creator.

Chapter 2

To The Church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)

This section is a message to the "angel" of the church of Ephesus. This message is from the one who has the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden candlesticks, which is, of course, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord knows all about this church in Ephesus. He knows their work, labor, their patience, and how they cannot bear those who are evil. They are discerning about people calling themselves apostles but are not, and the church in Ephesus is not afraid to call out these false apostles and call them liars. This church has endured patiently through hardships and trials, and they have not given up. Even though all of this is very commendable the Lord still finds a problem in this church.

What is this problem? They no longer love Jesus like they did at first. Think about this like a new husband and a wife. They have a special, intimate love for one another. But as time goes on they can lose that first love if they are not careful. This is what happened to the church in Ephesus. They are very careful to do everything correctly, they are hard workers, and they endure hardship. But they no longer have much love in their hearts for Jesus, and probably, as a result, have little love for one another either.

What is the solution for this problem? Jesus tells this church to remember where they were at first, to repent, and do the first works. What are first works? What did you do when you first saved? What did you do as a new Christian? I remember what I did. I read the Bible like there was no other book on this planet. I prayed with complete simplicity of faith and believed God heard me. I was zealous in sharing my faith in God with other people. I memorized scripture. I meditated upon God's word. I looked for ways to apply God's word to my life situations.

Jesus says that this church hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which he also hates. What are the deeds of the Nicolaitans? Look at how the Roman Catholic church operates and you will see a good example of the deeds of the Nicolaitans. It is a religious system that glorifies itself and claims the authority of God on earth. It is men exalting themselves over other men in the name of God. It is what the apostle Peter talks about in 1 Peter 5:2-3. Don't serve God for filthy lucre, don't lord yourself over other people. The

Roman Catholics are an extreme example of the deeds of the Nicolaitans, but this is also deeply embedded in Protestant and Evangelical churches as well.

The Lord gives a promise to the overcomer in verse 7. Those who overcome will be given to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

To The Church in Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)

The Lord commends this church in Smyrna. This is the second church in this list of seven churches. This message is from "the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive". This can be no other person but the Lord Jesus Christ himself. The Lord Jesus is speaking to this church, and his message is one of encouragement, hope, and comfort.

The Lord knows the works, tribulation, and poverty of this church. Notice that when poverty is mentioned the Lord says also they are rich. What does this mean? It is the same message through the whole Bible. Hannah prayed in 1 Samuel 2:8, *"He raiseth up the poor out of the dust...to make them inherit the throne of glory."* The Lord will lift up his humble servants. Those whom this world despises, but whom the Lord counts as precious.

Jesus says he knows those who say they are Jews but are not but are of the synagogue of Satan. This reminds me of the conversation which Jesus had with the Jews in John chapter 8. Remember Jesus said to them they that were of their father the devil. Why? Because they tried to claim they were God's people while rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone who claims they have God, that they are God's people (The Jews), but who reject the Lord Jesus Christ are really the synagogue of Satan. The Jews today who reject Jesus Christ are not really spiritual people. They are religious and zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on true knowledge. The true knowledge of God is found only in Jesus Christ. However, never, ever forget that these natural born Jews are still loved by God. God loves the Jewish people, even though their current religion of works is of the devil. Every religion outside of Jesus Christ is of the devil. This is no reason to persecute or hate them, but instead, it is a good reason to share God's love with them by giving them the gospel.

The Lord encourages this church to have no fear. Do not be afraid. Suffering and persecution would come, and they would face prison, but the Lord encourages his people to be faithful and endure the tribulation. Be faithful even unto death. Why? Because Jesus will give them a crown of life!

Oh Lord, grant us grace and mercy that we may endure tribulation, that we may be worthy to receive this crown of life!

Jesus gives us a promise in verse 11. He who overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death. There is a death that is even worse than physical death, and that is spiritual death. Do not die in your sins and be separated from God forever. Humble yourself today, call on the name of Jesus Christ, and be saved.

To The Church in Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17)

Jesus describes himself to this church in Pergamum as he who has the sharp sword with two edges. Why does the Lord describe himself like that? We read in Hebrews 4:12 that God's word is compared to a sharp double edged sword. It divides asunder soul and spirit and joints and marrow and discerns

the thoughts and intentions of the heart. The Lord knows the depths of our heart. He knows us much better than we know ourselves. He sees everything and will bring everything into account.

This sharp sword is also described as coming out of the Lord's mouth. With this sword of his mouth he destroys the man of sin in the last days, as we see in 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

The church in Pergamum has the unusual distinction of being located in the same area as Satan's seat. In other words, there is an actual place on the earth where the devil had his head quarters at that time. This was in this city of Pergamum.

There was intense persecution against Christians in this area, and they had endured. A specific martyr by the name of Antipas is mentioned.

The Lord also points out that these Christians have been infected with the leaven of false doctrine. These two types of false doctrine are called Balaam's doctrine and also the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. Balaam's doctrine was that men are in the ministry for money. Balaam was a prophet for hire, and also caused widespread harm to Israel through his evil counsel. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans has to do with men exalting themselves over their brethren in order to gain power and control over the church. The clearest example of this is the system of priests in the Catholic church. Jesus said don't call anyone "father" because we are all brethren. This doctrine of the Nicolaitans is clearly seen in the cult practices of the Catholic church. The prosperity gospel in American mega churches is a good example of the doctrine of Balaam.

Jesus warns this church if they do not repent he will come and fight against them with the sword of his mouth.

He also gives this church an amazing promise in verse 17, which is very special to me because the Holy Spirit gave this scripture to me on August 8, 2014.

Revelation 2:17, *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches: To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, that no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."*

To The Church in Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

Jesus describes himself to the church in Thyatira as the Son of God who has eyes like a flame of fire and his feet are like fine brass. Why would the Lord Jesus describe himself like this to this church? What does "eyes like a flame of fire" bring to mind? To me it implies his eyes see everything, and his eyes can see right into the heart of this church. Feet like fine brass seems to point to the authority to tread underneath one's feet. What can hurt someone's feet which are brass? Not any snake, that's for sure. No rock, or pebble, or thorn can hurt feet that are like fine brass. His feet can stomp down anything, any devil, any difficulty. He can stomp it all down. (Luke 10:19)

The church in Thyatira was infected with a serious problem, which Jesus calls Jezebel. Just like ancient Israel was corrupted from the inside out by Ahab and Jezebel so this church in Thyatira had a fatal disease. Jesus said he would kill the children of this Jezebel church with death. What does that mean? It reminds me of the teaching on the "second death" which is not only physical death but spiritual

separation from God. In other words, these children of Jezebel don't just die physically but they are dead spiritually as well. They are fake Christians, but are in positions of authority or control with this church.

To use the name of Jezebel implies a great evil embedded itself into the house of faith. And yet, even though this evil was there, also described as "the depths of Satan", there were individuals who did not hold the doctrine of Jezebel. Jesus said he would not put any burden on these people but exhorted them to hold fast until he comes.

The Lord gave a promise here to the overcomer. He who keeps the works of Jesus unto the end is given power over the nations. This overcoming Christian is given authority to reign with Christ over the nations. Jesus says he will give this believer "the morning star". This reminds me of what Peter said in 2 Peter 1:19, *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"* This points forward to the new day of God's kingdom which is fast approaching.

How can you be saved today? Call on the name of Jesus. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved.

Chapter 3

To The Church in Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)

The Lord Jesus describes himself as he who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars. Again, this is a slice out of the original description of Jesus Christ we have from John. Each church is associated with a particular part of the original description of Jesus. When we put all of the seven churches together, therefore, it gives us a complete view of the Lord Jesus. The church living in unity, love, and truth is a clear picture of the Lord Jesus.

The Lord's exhortation is to be watchful and strengthen what remains and is ready to die. This brings to my mind a building which is in need of repair and is in a state of decay. The building is full of dust and corruption and is barely breathing anymore. People meet, sing some songs, listen to a dry sermon, and go home. There is no life in this church.

What is the remedy for this? Jesus exhorts them to be watchful, and to remember what they received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. This is a word the Holy Spirit has given to me in my life. I need to remember what God said to me.

We need to hold fast what God gives us. We need to treasure what God gives us, and hold tightly to it, and constantly remind ourselves of the truth the Lord gave to us.

The primary truth we need to cling to is the gospel outlined by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again from the dead.

Jesus tells this church if they fail to watch then the Lord will return like a thief and the church will not know what hour he will come upon them. This language reminds me of exhortations Jesus gave his

disciples in the gospel accounts. Look up the words 'watch', or 'hour' to see how the Lord repeats this exhortation over and over to his disciples and the church.

What are we supposed to be watching? I think a lot of people today who think they are God's watchmen assume that "watching" means to keep up with current events and news headlines. Is this what 'watching' really means? Or, does it mean we need to be careful that we don't backslide, or grow cold, or grow apathetic towards constantly growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus.

I tend to think "watching" is a description of a Christian who has an aggressive attitude towards spiritual growth, maturity, and a passionate heart to become more and more like Jesus. It is a desire to be conformed to Jesus. Watching from this perspective is someone who is careful to avoid sin, and careful to maintain vigorous prayer, worship, fellowship, and witnessing to others.

"Watching" doesn't necessarily point to being aware of current events as much as a tenderness towards Jesus and a desire to grow in the knowledge of Jesus. Remember how Paul said that he constantly reached forth to those things which were before and that he continued to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)

Don't be led astray by modern day "watchmen" who focus on sensationalism and current events. Instead, get into God's word yourself, live an overcoming life for Jesus, and worship him daily.

Jesus gives a promise here. Those who overcome will be clothed in white raiment, and the Lord will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but the Lord will confess his name before the Father and the angels.

To The Church in Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)

The Lord describes himself as holy and true and having the key of David. What he opens no man can shut. What he shuts no man can open. Remember John's original description. In John's description Jesus had the keys of death and hell. Keys represent authority and power. Jesus is able to save us from hell. No one can stop the Lord from saving us and taking us to heaven with him. He is able to shut the door of hell and no one can open it up. He can open that door, too, if people reject his offer of salvation.

The Lord is opening a door for this church in Philadelphia. No one can shut this door. The Lord notices this church has a little strength in it, and kept God's word, and did not deny the name of Jesus.

Evidently there was a conflict between this church and some religious group who claimed to be Jews. All religions that deny the Lord Jesus Christ are religions created by the devil. A lot of cults claim to be the true Israel, or the true Jews. Beware of people who claim to be true Israel or Jewish. Most of these people are inspired by the devil. They are trying to claim some kind of spiritual authority by calling themselves Jews or Israel. But Jesus says he will eventually prove to everyone who truly belongs to God.

Jesus gives this church a special promise. He says because they kept the word of the Lord's patience then he would also keep them from the hour of temptation which comes upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth. In my opinion that is a reference to the rapture of the church before the seven years of tribulation.

Jesus is coming quickly. Hold on to what God has given you so that no one can take your crown. What is this crown? It is a symbol of reigning and ruling with Jesus during the millennial reign of Christ on earth and also beyond that in the new heavens and the new earth.

Jesus makes a promise to the overcomer. He will make the overcomer a pillar in the temple of God, and he will go no more out. Jesus will write upon him the name of God, the name of the city of God, the new Jerusalem, and also he writes upon the overcomer his new name.

There is a lot to take in while reading these verses. Take your time and meditate upon these promises. Determine in your heart that you will be an overcomer in the Lord Jesus. Make up your mind to abide every day in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. God has placed us into Christ, and has united us together with him in death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

To The Church In Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

In this message to the church in Laodicea the Lord describes himself as the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.

The Lord knows the works of this church. He knows they are neither cold or hot but lukewarm. Because they are lukewarm he will spit them out of his mouth.

The Lord exhorts them to buy gold tried in the fire that they can truly be rich. This church thinks it is rich because it has material wealth, but spiritually it is in poverty. This shows us the stark contrast between what the Lord considers riches and what the world system considers as wealth.

Jesus says this church, despite what they think of themselves, is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. This is a shocking state for this church to be in. What is more disturbing is that this church is completely unaware of its true spiritual condition. How is this possible?

It is possible because this church thinks like the world. It evaluates its status according to the standards of the world system instead of evaluating itself by the truth in Jesus.

Jesus loves this church. He says those he loves he rebukes and chastens. He exhorts this church to be zealous and repent.

Verse 20 is often used in evangelism but in this context the message is for the church. Jesus says he is standing at the door and knocking. If we will hear his voice and open the door he will come in, eat with us, and fellowship with us.

We have a promise for the overcomer in this church. Those who overcome will Jesus grant to sit with him in his throne, even as he overcame, and sat down with his Father in his throne.

The overcomer is the true Spirit-filled Christian. It is the man who walks in the Holy Spirit and lives in the Holy Spirit. This is not a super spiritual Christian. This is a normal Christian. Those who think they

are Christians but are not overcomers are not really Christians. They just think they are Christians because they are in the church. The Lord makes a constant distinction between those who are of the flesh (religious people who are deceived), and those who are of the Spirit, (those who truly belong to the Lord and are filled with the Holy Spirit).

Make sure you belong to the Lord today. Call upon his name. Ask the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Be filled with the Holy Spirit every day. Zechariah 4:6, "*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts*".

Chapter 4

The Throne In Heaven (Revelation 4:1-4)

John's record of events changes at this point from messages to the seven churches to a vision of the throne in heaven and future events.

John sees a door in heaven opened and the first voice which spoke to him tells him to come up to heaven and see the things which must be hereafter.

Immediately John was in the spirit and caught up to heaven where he saw a throne and someone sitting on the throne. He describes the one sitting on the throne like a jasper and a sardine stone, and there is a rainbow around the throne which was like an emerald.

Why did John describe this one sitting on the throne like a stone? My guess here is that it conveys the feeling this gave John. It conveys the feeling of weight. This person feels more real, more weighty, than everything else around him.

One time my wife described to me a dream she had about an angel. She saw him sitting in a tree outside and looking in at her through a window. She said he was like a living statue. This angel, in contrast to everything else, felt more real, like he had more weight. Like a statue looks, but alive.

This is my best guess at why John describes the one on the throne in terms of a jasper or sardine stone.

John also saw 24 seats around the throne where 24 elders were sitting. The elders were dressed in white and had golden crowns upon their head.

This is the beginning of John's vision of heaven. Notice how specific he is here in describing what he saw. He counted the number of elders and their seats. He noticed specific details. This shows us how real these things are. This is not a dream or a fantasy. This is spiritual reality. These things exist. There is a throne in heaven and God sits upon that throne.

We will all stand before the Lord one day. Are you ready to meet God? If you are not sure then you can make things right today. The Bible says that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Worship of the Creator (Revelation 4:5-11)

In this section we get more details about what John saw around the throne of God. Out of the throne he saw lightning and heard thunder and voices. There were seven lamps of fire before God's throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Before the throne was a sea of glass like crystal. In the midst of the throne and around the throne were four beasts.

John provides a detailed description of these four creatures, or beasts. Notice he uses the word "like" or "as" in this description. They are like a lion, a calf, like a man, and like a flying eagle. They are not those things, but this is the closest John can get to describing their appearance. Also, they are full of eyes before and behind. The creatures have six wings and are full of eyes. They do not rest day or night but proclaim: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."

When these creatures give glory to God then the 24 elders fall down before the throne and worship God who lives forever, and they cast their crowns before the throne. These 24 elders proclaim: *"You are worthy, oh Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created."*

From this section we learn God made creatures which man has not yet seen. These creatures exist in a realm invisible to us right now, but no doubt one day we will be there and witness what John saw as well.

The part I underline here is what the creatures said about God. He was, and is, and is to come. Time is divided into 3 parts: past, present, and future. God is outside of time. He is eternal. He created time. Time is just another reflection of who God is, his character, and his quality. He was, is, and is to come. Just like time.

God is three in one. He is eternal. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Chapter 5

The Lamb Takes The Scroll (Revelation 5:1-10)

John sees God holding a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. An angel proclaims with a loud voice: *"Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?"*

No one at first was found who was worthy to take the book and open the seals. This caused John to cry, but an elder said to him, *"Do not weep"*. Why? Because the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the book and loose the seven seals on it.

John looks at he sees in the midst of God's throne, and the four beasts, and the 24 elders, the Lamb of God. He had the appearance of a Lamb that had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God in all the earth.

The Lamb took the book out of the right hand of God who sat on the throne.

When he took the book the four beasts and the 24 elders sung a new song. The words of the song: *"Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."*

This song reveals a lot about the 24 elders. It shows they were once men whom the Lord redeemed out of every nation of men, out of every people, and family of men. Once they were redeemed the Lamb then made them to be priests and kings unto God. What is their future? They shall reign on the earth.

What is the future of those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb? What do we have in front of us? We will reign and rule with Jesus on this earth.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who is worthy of all glory, honor, and praise. He was slain for our salvation, and was raised up from the dead on the third day. He ascended to the right hand of God. He is the one who is worthy to take the scroll with the seven seals on it.

The seven seals are the first of 3 sets of sevens which will be God's judgments upon the earth. These judgments bring an end to the old world system and will usher in the new world order of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lamb Exalted (Revelation 5:11-14)

Here John is witness to all of heaven giving honor and glory and praise to the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. What do they say about Jesus? "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

Not only did those in heaven worship the Lamb, but also every creature in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth, and those in the sea, and all that are in them, worshiped the Lamb, saying: *"Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."*

The four beasts said, Amen. The 24 elders fell down and worshiped him that lives forever and ever.

This scene reminds me of what the Psalmist said in Psalm 150:6, *"Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD."*

Victory in this life hinges upon what you and I worship. Do you worship yourself through self-pity? Do you worship yourself by complaining, murmuring, slandering, or gossiping? Do you worship yourself by seeing everything only through the lens of how you benefit or lose? Are you incapable of turning your eyes off your own self and turning your eyes upon Jesus?

Remember the words of the hymn:

*O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?*

*There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free.
Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

To be an overcomer in Christ you must learn right now to worship the Lord Jesus. Worship the Lord, begin right now, by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Turn your mind to his word. Meditate upon the goodness of the Lord. Consider the great things he has done for you. Pray until you pray through and get the victory over self and sin and the world and the devil and death itself. Worship the Lord! Praise him with everything that is within you. Praise his holy name.

When you begin to lift up the name of Jesus Christ then the enemy will fall beneath your feet. Forget about your past, and reach forth toward what the Lord has prepared for you.

The Lord gives us the victory today. He is worthy of all glory, honor, and praise. Amen.

Chapter 6

The First Seal: The White Horse (Revelation 6:1-2)

In this chapter we see the Lord starting to open the seven seals. He opens one of the seals and John hears a noise like thunder and one of the four beasts said to him: "*Come and see.*"

What did he see? John saw a white horse and the man riding the horse had a bow and a crown was given to him and he went forth conquering and to conquer.

Many bible commentaries say the rider on this white horse is the Antichrist, and that makes sense. He is a counterfeit Christ. We see later on in Revelation when the Lord returns to this earth he will be riding a white horse and will have many crowns, and he will be coming back to conquer the nations of this earth. However, this fake Christ will pretend to be the Lord. Notice that he has a bow, like a hunter, but no arrows or a quiver. This is because the Antichrist does not take over the world system by arms or violence, but instead he conquers the world system with a deceitful peace plan. He comes in the name of peace to take over the world system.

This is one of the seven seals of this book. This is ordained by God and will take place because it is the Lord who allows this man of sin to go forth on a white horse and conquer the world. He will conquer the world like no other before him. Many have tried to conquer the world, but this man of sin, the wicked one, will succeed where all others have failed. He will gain control of the entire world system, and the world system will be one united economic, political, and religious system with this man at the top of it all. He will be the human embodiment of Satan on this earth.

Remember, this is a seal which the Lamb of God opens. Jesus is ultimately in charge of everything that happens during this seven year tribulation. God is always in control. The Lord has already defeated

Satan at Calvary, and this is only the next to the last attempt of the devil to destroy man and this world. He will get one more chance after the thousand year reign of Christ on earth.

It is time to get saved. Today is the day of salvation. Call on the name of the Lord and be saved today.

The Second Seal: War (Revelation 6:3-4)

In the last century we experienced two world wars. Not only that, but we also had the Korean War and the Vietnam War as well. In this century we've had ongoing wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout the middle east. Millions of people lost their lives in these wars. However, these wars pale in comparison to what will happen when this second seal is opened by the Lord.

When Jesus opens this second seal John sees a red horse, and power was given to him that sat on the red horse to take peace from the earth and that people would kill one another. This rider had a great sword.

When the Lord Jesus spoke to his disciples about the last days he described the events leading up to his return. He said there would be wars. In Matthew, Mark, and Luke the Lord is recorded as saying that there would be wars and rumors of wars. These were signs pointing toward the end, but it was not the end itself. These great wars are sign posts that indicate that the end is coming but we are not quite there.

However, this war let loose upon the earth during the tribulation will be unlike anything we have ever seen. We are getting glimpses of wars even now, again. Will there be another world war? Are we going to see world war three take place in our generation? Honestly, I would not be surprised if this happens.

War is the second seal loosed upon the earth. Remember who is in charge of these seals? The Lord Jesus is the one who is in control of all of this. It is the Lord who sends this rider on the red horse. God is in control of all things. It is the Lord's final attempt to turn the hard heart of mankind back to their Creator before it is forever too late.

Wars are always the wrath of God on mankind. Remember this, and repent today. Let us humble ourselves, and repent, and perhaps we might escape this war in our generation.

The Third Seal: Famine (Revelation 6:5-6)

The Lord Jesus opens the third seal. The third beast exhorts John to come and see. What does John see? He sees a black horse, and the one who rides on the black horse has a pair of balances in his hand. What does this represent? He also hears a voice in the midst of the four beasts which says: "A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."

This voice and the rider on the black horse with his balances points to world wide famine. I'd say there has never been a famine like the one which the rider on the black horse will bring. When you hear the word "famine" what comes into your mind? Do you remember the images of children on those TV commercials with bloated stomachs and stick legs and arms? Yes, that is famine, but there is something even more horrific about famine which the Bible describes.

Go back and read the account in 2 Kings 6:24-33 and you will get a glimpse of the horror which is a famine. The famine here in this third seal will be worse than any famine that has ever been on the face of the earth. The entire world will be afflicted by this famine that is coming. No one will escape from the horror of what is described in 2 Kings 6:24-33.

Let this sink in. Do you want to be here during this? I certainly do not want to be on this earth when this third seal is opened. How can we escape this?

Luke 21:36, *"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."*

The Fourth Seal: Death (Revelation 6:7-8)

The Lord Jesus opens the fourth seal, and John hears the voice of the fourth beast saying to him, *"Come and see."*

What does John see? He sees a pale horse, and the one riding on the pale horse is named Death, and Hell follows with him. He is given power over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and hunger, and death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Previously we have seen that war was set loose upon the earth in a previous seal. War could parallel the sword. Also, we have previously seen a seal with famine, which of course parallels hunger. But now we have two more elements included in this new judgment released upon the earth.

What is death? This scripture turns death into a personal entity riding upon a pale horse. It also mentions death as the means by which people are killed. How can death itself be the means by which someone dies?

I think death is more than just the end of physical life. I think this is pointing to the spiritual reality that death is a spiritual power that can kill people.

Recently the Lord was teaching me about this. Death is something which we as Christians need to resist. It is possible for a person to die prematurely because they give in to this principle or power of death. The bible talks about the law of sin and death. There is a law, or a principle, a power of death. It is at work in our bodies from the time we are born. It is eating away at us.

But when a man is born again by the Holy Spirit he has now the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. By the power of the Holy Spirit we can resist the law of sin and death.

We should never passively give in to an attitude or resign ourselves to death. We should always actively resist death. Death is an enemy for the Christian. It was defeated by the Lord Jesus Christ. Death has been defeated by the Lord, and we as believers should maintain an attitude of resistance against death.

I know Christians who are still alive but gave up on life. They are resigned to death. They are waiting for death to catch up to them. They are not actively or aggressively living each day for the Lord because they became passive. They wait on death to get them. This should not be our attitude.

The Lord taught me to resist this spirit of death. Now, I am not talking about a super spiritual idea that I think I will never die. I know I am living in a mortal body which will eventually wear out and pass away. I know this life on earth is temporary. But as a Christian I am not in agreement with death. I will not give in to death.

Some may point out that Paul wanted to die. To the Philippians he said it was better to depart and be with the Lord. But he also said he would continue with them for their benefit. His work was not done yet. Therefore he was not giving in to death, even though Paul knew very well that heaven is a better place than this. Paul did not give in to the spirit of death. He was living for Jesus in his body. When the Lord told him his work was complete then he was ready to depart (2 Timothy).

Death is something which can kill people. That might sound strange, putting it like that. But you can die from the spirit of death. In this seal death is released upon a pale horse and hell is with it. Death and hell go together. As a Christian, hell is not my destination, and death is not my friend.

Psalms 118:17-18, *"I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. (18) The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death."*

1 Corinthians 15:54-57, *"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. (55) O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? (56) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

The Fifth Seal: Martyrs (Revelation 6:9-11)

There were people killed for believing in Jesus since the beginning of the book of Acts. The first martyr was Stephen, and soon after James the brother of John was killed. Throughout the history of the church there were people who died for their faith. A good resource which records this history is the book "Foxe's Book of Martyrs".

But, who are these specific martyrs under the altar of God, those who were slain for the word of God and the testimony they held? They are crying out with a loud voice to God, *"How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"*

They were given white robes and told to rest for a little season. they have to wait until their fellow servants and brethren are killed as they were. There is a specific number of Christians who will die as martyrs for Christ. God knows the number of those who will be slain for the Lord Jesus.

Notice these souls cry out for God's judgment. When people die like this the blood spilled on the earth cries out for God's judgment to come. Remember the blood of Abel cried out from the ground to God for justice.

How much innocent blood has been spilled in America? How many babies has this nation murdered? Does this nation really think it can escape from God's wrath and judgment?

Innocent blood cries out to God in heaven. And the Lord will act and he will avenge the blood of those who are murdered.

Our only hope is to humble ourselves, and to cry out to God for mercy and forgiveness. Only the blood of Jesus can bring forgiveness of our sins. The blood of Jesus Christ God's son can cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

But, this nation is not crying out for God's forgiveness. They are unrepentant, and hardhearted, and continue to practice wickedness and evil. The Lord will repay all those who have shed the blood of the innocent.

The Sixth Seal: Terror (Revelation 6:12-17)

When the Lord Jesus opens the sixth seal there is a great earthquake, the sun becomes black, the moon becomes like blood, the stars fall to the earth, and the heaven rolls back like a scroll. Every mountain and island are moved out of place. Everyone on the planet is terrified by these events. People hide in dens in the mountains, and hope this will hide them from God and the wrath of the Lamb of God.

It is difficult to explain how all these things could happen at one time. I've heard some try to explain this as the planet flipping over, like the north pole becomes the south pole. However, I don't think what is described in these verses can be explained through natural means. At that time men clearly believe that what is happening is divine intervention from God. People are terrified, and they know who is behind all of it. They know it is the wrath of God falling upon the planet.

How can people endure this and yet still not repent of their sins? As we continue to read in the book of Revelation we discover a lot of people on the earth during that time refuse to humble themselves and repent of their sins. Instead, these calamities only make them more angry at God.

Notice, there is no doubt about the existence of God during the tribulation. But instead of being in awe of God and humbling themselves, men instead will continue to rebel in the face of God's direct intervention on the planet.

This is the confusion that sin brings. Remember how even in the face of God's wrath in Egypt that Pharaoh would not let Israel go? Remember how, in the wilderness, after seeing all these miracles from God, the people would still murmur and complain against God? This is the deceitfulness of the power of sin in the heart of man.

Jeremiah 17:9, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*"

Do not listen to people when they tell you to trust your own heart, or to look "within" for answers to your problems. The answer to your problems will not be found within your own heart. The only answer for the problems in our life will be found in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, is the only solution for our individual problems and also for the problems which plague this entire planet.

May the Lord help us to humble ourselves, and repent of self, sin, the world system, the devil, and to put our entire faith completely in the Son of God, Jesus Christ. He is our only hope for salvation.

Chapter 7

144,000 Sealed (Revelation 7:1-8)

John pulls back the curtain to reveal there are four angels in the four corners of the earth holding back the wind from blowing upon the earth. As a result there was no wind on the earth, the sea, or on any tree.

There was another angel ascending from the east who has the seal of the living God. This angel cried to the other four angels. It was the job of those four angels to hurt the earth and the sea, but this angel from the east asked them not to do their work yet until he sealed 144,000 people from the nation of Israel. This seal, evidently, would be for their protection against whatever wrath the other four angels were bringing.

I am of the opinion this 144,000 who are sealed are literally people who are from those specific tribes in the nation of Israel. You might ask how that is even possible. Do those tribes even exist in the world anymore? If anyone knows then this angel knows. If God knows who those 144,000 Jews from the 12 tribes of Israel are, then it is the Lord who knows. And this angel is told to seal 144,000 from those tribes in Israel. Like I said, I don't think these people are Gentiles, or just Christians in general. I don't think these are elite, super spiritual Christians. I think it is exactly as the text says. They are 144,000 people from the 12 tribes of Israel.

Why try to assign some other esoteric, or super spiritual meaning to this passage? Why try to twist this into meaning something other than the obvious reading it implies?

I realize there are a lot of spiritual things and a lot of symbolism used in the book of Revelation. However, when it is possible for a plain reading of scripture, I think we should plainly read the scripture. There is no mystical or esoteric meaning of the 144,000 who are sealed. These are people. They are from the literal nation of Israel.

This also implies there will be a literal nation of Israel in the last days. It so happens we do have a literal nation called Israel in the middle east. It was born in 1948, and is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, and is a sign we are right now living in the very last of the last days and end times.

Call on the name of the Lord Jesus today. Ask God to save you from your sins before it is too late. History is wrapping up right in front of our eyes. Believe the gospel! Jesus Christ died upon the cross for our sins, he was buried in a tomb, and he rose again on the third day. He is coming back to this earth. He will sit as King over the nations of this world. Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Praise From the Great Multitude (Revelation 7:9-17)

In this section of Revelation chapter 7 we see a great multitude of people praising God. They praise God with words like these: "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, but unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."

Someone asks John who these people are who praise God. John does not know and one of the elders tells John these are people who went through the great tribulation. We know this because it goes on to say they will never again suffer through some of the judgments we know strike the earth during the great tribulation. Some of those judgments are a great heat from the sun, and hunger, and thirst.

I think this makes it clear there will be some believers in Jesus Christ who are on planet earth during the great tribulation. Who are these people? Were these people saved after the tribulation started? We can't be for sure who they are, but they are redeemed by the Lamb of God, and they were on earth during the great tribulation.

There is a promise from God given to these people. I can see believers who may live during the time of this tribulation needing these promises and the hope this scripture provides them. The scripture promises those believers they will hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun strike them, nor any heat. The Lamb of God in the midst of the throne shall be their shepherd and guide them to fountains of waters of life and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes.

What a wonderful promise. This is here I believe specifically for the the purpose of encouraging those tribulation saints, and to enable them to endure unto the end, and that their faith will not fail.

Chapter 8

The Seventh Seal (Revelation 8:1-5)

The seventh seal here in Revelation chapter 8 is separated from the first six seals in Revelation chapter 6. We had a chapter in between describing the sealing of 144000 Jews, and also we had a vision of a heavenly multitude praising God.

Now the seventh seal is opened, and there is silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. The fact that John can estimate an amount of time in heaven is interesting to me. This means that even in eternity we will be able to count time in some way. There will still be a progression of history, and events, even throughout all of eternity. That is hard to comprehend, but this is what the mention here of time implies, at least to me.

The seventh seal is like the prelude to the next stage which will be the seven trumpets. Seven angels received seven trumpets from God. There was another angel there also who took incense and the prayers of all saints and took it to the golden altar before God's throne. The smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. The angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and cast it into the earth. There were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

So, as we see, this section describing the seventh seal includes a period of silence, the distribution of seven trumpets to seven angels, and also more tribulation for the earth.

This is the beginning of the second set of sevens. The first seven was the seven seals. Now we will see about these seven trumpets. After the trumpets the final seven will be seven bowls of God's wrath.

One thing reading Revelation teaches me is that God's works in an orderly fashion. There is a pattern, there is repetition, and there is order, even in God pouring out his wrath upon the earth.

If you pay attention you can know these patterns of God. When you see these patterns, or signs as they are also called, then it will help you to cultivate a fear of the Lord in your life. God does not change. He works according to a set pattern which can be discerned if you are paying attention. Watch therefore, and pray, and be ready for the return of the Lord.

The First Four Trumpets (Revelation 8:6-13)

Here in this half of chapter 8 we read about four of the trumpets. Remember there were seven seals Jesus opened. The seventh seal introduces seven trumpets. These trumpets are blown by seven angels, and each trumpet releases various judgments from God upon earth.

The first angel's trumpet releases hail and fire mingled with blood and they are cast on the earth. A third of trees is burned up, and all green grass on the planet is burned up.

The second angel sounds and a great mountain burning with fire is cast into the sea. A third of the sea becomes blood, a third of all sea creatures dies, and a third of all ships on the sea are destroyed.

The third angel sounds and a great star from heaven burning like a lamp falls on a third of the rivers and fountains of waters. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters on earth become wormwood. Many men die because of these poisonous waters.

The fourth angel sounds and a third of the sun and moon and stars is darkened and there is light for only a third part of a day.

Another angel flies through the heavens crying with a loud voice, "*Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angles, which are yet to sound!*"

A quick summary of what happens in these four trumpets. Trees, and grass, and water, and oceans, the sun, moon, and stars are affected. This represents a lot of the natural world which we take for granted every day. Can you imagine all of the green grass on the entire planet gone up in smoke? Can you imagine only having light for a third part of a day? How long is that? A few hours of light every day?

Can you imagine living on this planet when this happens? You do not want to be here during this time.

Call on the name of the Lord Jesus today and be saved.

Luke 21:36, "*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*"

There is only way you can ever be found worthy by God. Put your entire trust and faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Chapter 9

The Fifth Trumpet (Revelation 9:1-12)

The fifth angel sounds the fifth trumpet and a star falls from heaven to the earth. This star is called "him" in this verse. To him was given the key of the bottomless pit. Later in this section this fallen star is also called Abaddon or Apollyon, and he is the king over these hellish locust creatures that ascend out of the pit to torment everyone not sealed by God. Remember back earlier when an angel went forth to seal those 144,000 Jews? Now we see why they were sealed. This seal protects them from these locusts coming upon the earth out of the bottomless pit.

Some speculate these creatures are futuristic technology. Maybe that is true, but I think this is something we have never seen before. I don't think these locusts are man-made technology which gets out of control. I think these are literally demonic creatures out of hell which come upon the earth to torment mankind. We have a specific description of their appearance: locusts, crowns of gold, faces like men, hair like women, teeth like lions, breastplates of iron, wings with a loud sound like chariots going to battle, stings in their tails. They have power to hurt men for five months.

Another interesting phenomena happens. Men are so distressed by these creatures that they want to die. Perhaps people try to commit suicide because of the locust creatures. But the Bible says men are unable to die during this five months. Death flees from them! How is this possible? It is a mystery to us, but these events will unfold exactly as the Bible describes in that specific time.

No one in their right mind would want to be on earth during this seven years of tribulation.

Isaiah 55:6-7, "Seek ye the Lord will he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

The Sixth Trumpet (Revelation 9:13-21)

The sixth angel sounds the sixth trumpet, and a voice from the four horns on the altar of God tells the angel to let loose four other angels which were bound at the river Euphrates. The fact these four angels were bound already tells us these are not "good" angels. We see their mission is to go forth and to kill a third of mankind on the earth.

We also see an army of two hundred thousand thousands. My math may be wrong, but I think that is 2,000,000 in that army. We have a detailed description, and again, this army does not sound like a normal human army, though it might be. John is describing what he sees using language from his time in history. He may have been seeing some kind of modern warfare or futuristic warfare, or this army might have just been straight supernatural out of hell.

The important point for me is verse 20. The rest of mankind that was not killed by these plagues did not repent. They continued to worship the work of their hands, and devils, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood. They did not repent of their murders, or sorceries, or their fornication, or their thefts. Even with all of these horrible things taking place men still do not humble themselves and repent of

their sins. This reminds me alot of how Pharaoh hardened his heart when God poured his wrath upon Egypt.

If we do not repent now there is no guarantee we will repent later. Today is the day of salvation. Do not put this off another day. Humble yourself, bow your head before God, and repent of your sins. Confess your sins to God, and God has promised he will forgive us. 1 John 1:9. How can he forgive us? Because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins upon the cross. Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

Chapter 10

The Angel and the Small Scroll (Revelation 10:1-11)

This is a short chapter in the book of Revelation and will be covered here at one time.

John sees another strong angel. This angel has a foot on the sea, and another foot on the earth. He cries with a loud voice like a lion and when he cries seven thunders uttered their voices. John would record what the thunders said but an angel told him not to write it down. Evidently it is to remain a mystery what the meaning of the seven thunders would be.

The voice of the Lord told John to take the scroll from the strong angel. The angel gives it to him and says that when he eats it the taste will be like honey in his mouth but will make his stomach bitter. This reminds me of the prophet Ezekiel, because he also ate a book which tasted like honey.

After John ate the scroll he was instructed to prophesy again over many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.

One spiritual application for the christian in ministry here is plain. If we will preach God's word then we must first consume God's word ourselves. If we are to give God's word to others then we must first have God's word in our heart and lives.

The heart of this chapter remains a mystery. We don't know the meaning of this strong angel or the meaning of the seven thunders.

We do not need to understand everything. At the moment, let us just learn the facts presented to us, and make application to our lives. Let us stay in God's word, and learn to relate it to our every day life situations, and obey the Holy Spirit when he speaks to us.

Chapter 11

The Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:1-6)

Many people get hung up on the identity of these two witnesses. If the Lord wanted us to know who these two witnesses were he would have told us. I think this is one of those hang ups people have in the same vein as the question of who was Cain's wife. These are questions the Bible doesn't answer. Why

do we enjoy speculation so much though? We have plenty of spiritual food here without going off on rabbit trails.

Again, I am reminded of the prophet Ezekiel. A reed like a rod was given to John and he was told to measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship there. This is similar to what we see in the book of Ezekiel when an angel measured the temple for Ezekiel.

John is given specific instructions not to measure the court that is outside the temple. John is told this outer court is given to the nations and that they will tread the holy city under foot for 42 months. How long is 42 months? 42 months equals 3 1/2 years. This is half of the seven years of tribulation.

The Bible reveals a little bit to us about these two witnesses of God. They are described as the two olive trees and the two candlesticks standing before the Lord of the earth. This reminds me of the prophet Zechariah. Read in the book of Zechariah and you will see these two mentioned there as well.

These two witnesses have supernatural protection from God. If anyone tries to hurt them then fire comes out of their mouth and devours their enemies. This reminds us of the prophet Elijah who would call down fire upon those who wanted to harm him.

Also, these two witnesses have power to shut the heaven so that it does not rain during the day of their prophecy. Again, this reminds us of what Elijah did during 3 1/2 years in Israel. This was a big part of Elijah's ministry in Israel.

The fact we are constantly reminded of Israel's history and Israel's prophets is further confirmation that this seven years of tribulation is about God dealing with the nation of Israel. Everything we see here has types and shadows in the history of Israel and the prophets.

These men also turn water into blood and smite the earth with every plague. This reminds us of Moses and what happened when God brought Israel out of Egypt. All of this is very Jewish. And of course we are also in the city of Jerusalem during this.

I am not as interested in who these men are as I am interested in what they point us toward. These men represent the fact that God is bringing the entire history of Israel to an ultimate head. Everything God promised to Israel is in the rapid process of being fulfilled through these two witnesses. The Lord will fulfill all of his promises he has made to the nation of Israel.

The Witnesses Killed and Raised (Revelation 11:7-14)

Eventually the two witnesses finish their 3 1/2 year testimony. When they complete their ministry the beast out of the pit attacks them and kills them. Who is this beast? As far as I can tell this is the Antichrist, the man of sin, the wicked one, the man whom Satan uses to manipulate and control the entire world system in that day.

The entire world is happy when these prophets are killed. They leave their bodies lying in the street of Jerusalem. They send gifts to one another and celebrate the death of these men of God.

However, after 3 days these men are raised back up to life again. They are resurrected from the death, and then God calls from heaven and they ascend right up into heaven in the sight of people.

After this a great earthquake hits the city and a tenth part of the city falls. Seven thousand people die in this earthquake. Those who survive are afraid and acknowledge that God is the one who is doing this.

The second woe is complete. A third woe is on its way.

From my understanding of the timeline here these two witnesses are in action for the first 3 1/2 years of the seven year tribulation. They die right at the midpoint. There are other events that take place at this time as well. This is a turning point, when we go from a tribulation into what is called the "great" tribulation. This is why we have this warning here of a third woe that is coming quickly. It will only get worse for those who refuse to humble themselves and repent.

The Seventh Trumpet (Revelation 11:15-19)

The seventh angel sounds the seventh trumpet.

John hears great voices in heaven and they proclaim: "The kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ: and he shall reign for ever and ever."

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray he said to pray God's kingdom would come and God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Here we see the answer to this prayer. The Lord Jesus will reign over all the nations of this planet and his kingdom will last forever.

The twenty four elders fall upon their faces and worship God, and say, "We give you thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and were; because you have taken your great power, and did reign."

We are moving without fail to the establishment of King Jesus and his kingdom over this planet. The Lord will return and every knee will bow before him. He is King forever.

The nations are angry but God's wrath puts them in their place. The time for the judgment of everyone who has died comes. Time comes when God rewards his prophets and saints and to everyone who fears the name of the Lord, both small and great. God will destroy all of those who destroyed the earth.

John looks into the temple of God in heaven and he sees there the heavenly ark of God's covenant. There are lightnings, and voices, and thunders, and an earthquake, and great hail.

In summary, we see the reality of God's kingdom coming to the earth. Unsaved men and nations are no longer allowed to run this planet. The Lord will rule over all the nations, and with him will be his people reigning and ruling with him over every nation. This is the reward and the inheritance of Christians. The meek will inherit the earth. It will happen. This is an eternal reward and not the temporary power which the current world system offers men. Reigning with Christ will endure forever.

I am looking forward to this with all of my heart. My treasures are in heaven, and my heart is there also. I am looking forward to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will wipe away all of my tears, and he will remove all of my reproach. Amen.

Chapter 12

The Woman and the Dragon (Revelation 12:1-5)

The woman and the dragon is a vision which uses symbols to communicate the meaning of what God wants to share with John. From the description we have of this woman and dragon and the man child caught up to heaven I believe what this is historical and prophetic. The woman with the twelve stars is the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel brought forth the Messiah, the Man Child, who is Jesus. The Lord Jesus after he was resurrected ascended back to heaven. The dragon is of course the devil or Satan, and he persecutes Jews and Christians. The third part of the stars that fell with the dragon are the fallen angels who were deceived by Lucifer, or Satan, or the devil. As a result, they fell with him. God cast them out of heaven.

It is hard to tell if this is past, present, or future. Remember Jesus said he saw Satan cast down from heaven like lightning. This seems to indicate some historical fall of this prideful cherub. However, we also will see a further fall of the devil when God casts him down again to the earth, as we see further here in Revelation 12.

To understand bible prophecy you have to lose the idea of it being like fortune telling. It is not like that. Bible prophecy is more like seeing clearly the character of God and the patterns by which he has dealt with the universe, and the angels, and with man in the past. When you see how God deals with something in the past, then you know how he will act again. This is why bible prophecy is more like a repeated pattern through history. Understand the pattern and you can know what will happen in your life, in the lives of your family, and also even in a nation of people. If people act like they do today in America then they can expect that God's wrath will fall upon them over and over. This is already happening, and has been happening for a while, and will continue to happen until America is gone.

The man child will rule all the nations with a rod of iron. There is no one else who fits this description but Jesus Christ. He is coming back, and his kingdom will be forever and ever. Amen.

War In Heaven (Revelation 12:7-12)

A long time ago I memorized verse 11: *"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony; and they loved not their life even unto death."*

This is important because it gives the Christian knowledge of how to overcome the enemy. This section of scripture clearly shows us that the enemy attacks through accusation. He accuses God's people night and day. How do we defend ourselves from the attack of Satan? This scripture teaches us how to overcome the accusations of the devil. We overcome because of the blood of the Lamb. Also, we have a testimony. Our testimony is that Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Jesus ascended into heaven and is at the right hand of God Almighty interceding and praying for us. He is our advocate before the Father in heaven. He has brought his own blood before the mercy seat, and his work of cleansing us, forgiving us, redeeming us, and sanctifying us is now complete.

Here we see the curtain pulled back and a war is taking place in heaven. This battle includes cherubim, arch angels, and all the angels of God in a battle against Satan and the fallen angels of the devil. The devil is cast out of heaven and all the fallen angels are completely cast out of the heavens to the earth.

When this happens the devil knows he only has a short time left. He is filled with wrath and immediately goes to make war against the people of God.

A great voice in heaven says: *"Now is come salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. The accuser of our brethren is cast down..."*

The enemy was defeated at Calvary. His final judgment is yet to come. His eternal destination will be the lake of fire which burns forever.

We must endure patiently until the Lord completes everything he has planned. The Lord is on the move, and we see the fulfillment of his word in the day we are living in. Things will only accelerate and go faster the closer we get toward the end.

The Woman Persecuted (Revelation 12:13-17)

The dragon is the devil. God cast him down to the earth and he persecutes the woman who brought forth the man child. I believe this woman is Israel and the man child is Jesus. Therefore, we are seeing a description of the devil persecuting Israel. We have a symbolic description of how he persecutes Israel. It says the dragon cast out of his mouth water like a river to carry away the woman. The earth opens its mouth and delivers the woman from the flood of water. The woman receives wings like an eagle to fly away into the wilderness where the Lord protects and provides for her for 3 1/2 years. This points to the second half of the tribulation, which is the great tribulation.

This takes place around the same time the two witnesses are killed and raised up. It also takes place at the midpoint when the Antichrist goes into the temple and declares he is God and erects an abomination of desolation.

Israel is no longer deceived as to who this Antichrist is. She runs for her life to escape the clutches of the dragon.

When the dragon is unable to destroy the woman it turns its attention to persecuting the seed of the woman. This seed of the woman in the earth are those who keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus. These are the tribulation saints.

In the book of Genesis we begin with a woman and a serpent. Now we see the battle has evolved between a woman and a dragon. The devil is no longer trying to be subtle or hide who he is or his intentions. He goes forth to steal, kill, and destroy. There is nothing subtle about a dragon. Notice this dragon does not send out fire out of his mouth, but instead he sends forth water out of his mouth. His goal is to not to consume with fire but instead to overwhelm and drown people.

How can we apply this to our life today? In what ways is the devil working in the world right now to overwhelm and drown people? I think one way I can see is through the internet and through the constant beating of drums in politics, and news propaganda and through street protests. The enemy tries to overwhelm people and wear out people.

Daniel 7:25, *"And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time."*

The only safe place for us in these last days is to be shut in with the Lord. Stop listening to the constant beating of the devil's drums. The words of the devil are in the airways and it destroys people's lives. The enemy wears people out. We need to go into the wilderness and learn that God is our provider, God is our protector, and God is our portion forever. Stop listening to the world system and go to the Lord.

Those who will not go into the wilderness with the Lord will be overwhelmed in the last days by the water coming out of the dragon's mouth.

Doesn't it seem strange that a dragon is not breathing out fire, but instead is breathing out water? He can't consume people with fire, but he will seek to drown people by his words. Escape from the voice of the enemy by shutting yourself in with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 13

The Beast From The Sea (Revelation 13:1-10)

In this chapter we are introduced to two different beasts. Some people might forget that along with the Antichrist is also another man who is known as the false prophet. These two work in agreement with Satan to bring the entire world system into subjection.

The Antichrist is seen here as rising up out of the sea. The sea is a symbol for the nations of the world. This Antichrist will arise through political manipulation onto the world stage. The description we have of this beast goes along with the vision which God gave to Daniel the prophet. We see in Revelation the fulfillment of what God showed to the prophet Daniel concerning the nation of Israel and the last days. This is another reason why I believe that the seven years of tribulation is a time where God is dealing primarily with the nation of Israel.

The ten horns and seven heads point toward his political power. These numbers represent kings or kingdoms which the Antichrist gains power over. He is described as a leopard, a bear, a lion, and the dragon gives him his power. All of these beasts are predators and are the most fierce and dangerous land animals that you can run into. They are all at the top of the food chain in their respective domains. This man is a combination of all these beasts. He is probably a man who has been genetically enhanced or has some kind of cyborg components in him. He might not be completely human at all, but a mixture of something else, like the account of the Nephilim in Genesis.

Notice that he is a counterfeit Christ, even down to the details of being killed and raised up again from the dead. He is killed with a head wound, but then he rises again from the dead. This is probably some kind of diabolical magic trick, but the world believes in this black magic and believes in him. They are so astounded they wonder who is like unto the beast, who can make war with him? This is a super man. Is this why we see so many movies about super heroes like superman, batman, Thor, and the like? Is iron man, and spider man, and all of these super heroes in the movies a preview or brain washing of mankind to prepare us for a super man to take control of the world? I think it probably is.

Notice that when this man opens his mouth that blasphemy against God flows out of him. He blasphemes God, God's tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. He has power to make war against the saints of God and he overcomes them. As shocking as it may be, the Lord allows this blasphemer to defeat his people during the tribulation. Many of the tribulation saints will die at the hand of this monster. The holocaust will not even compare to the blood shed which will take place under this man of sin.

Everybody on this planet will worship this man of sin. Everyone whose name is not written in the Lamb's book of life will worship Satan. There will be no neutral ground. You are either for the devil or for God. There is no middle ground, no fence straddling. You are filled with the Holy Spirit or you are filled with the devil.

There is a word of encouragement here to the tribulation saints. God is asking them to be patient and remain faithful to the end. There is going to be suffering, and death. Many believers will die during this time on earth. Remain faithful to the end, and they will receive the crown of life. God himself will wipe away all of their tears one day.

The Beast From The Earth (Revelation 13:11-15)

The second beast which appears is the false prophet. This beast is said to rise out of the earth. He has two horns like a lamb and speaks like a dragon. This association with a lamb points to the fact this beast is religious. He has authority and power like the first beast, but his function is to point men to the Antichrist. He performs supernatural signs and wonders to deceive people into worshiping the first beast. He initiates the construction of an image of the beast. This image seems to reflect the fact this first beast died and was raised to life again. This image is animated in some way so that it can speak. The false prophet has power to kill anyone who will not worship this image.

Who else in the bible does this remind us of? This points us back to the book of Daniel again. The king of Babylon tried to force Daniel's three friends into worshiping an idol of gold made to look like the heathen king. This is a type of what we see fulfilled here in the book of Revelation. As I mentioned previously, bible prophecy is a pattern which repeats itself over and over.

We have these two beasts exposed for us here in Revelation chapter 13. These two men will bring more destruction upon the human race than has ever been seen. They do it through words, lying, signs, wonders, and miracles. They will work together with the devil to bring the world into one political, religious, and economic world system. This is the one world order that is coming upon the earth during this seven years of tribulation. We can see already the world rapidly moving in the direction of this new world order beast system.

We see how the enemy brings the world together as one through political and religious means, and next we will talk about how he unites the world in one economic system.

The Mark Of The Beast (Revelation 13:16-18)

During this seven year tribulation everyone on the earth who is not a believer in Jesus will have a mark put into their right hand or their forehead. This is called the mark of the beast in scripture. No one will be able to buy or sell without this mark of the beast. The mark of the beast is associated with the

number of a man which is 666. No one, rich or poor, will be able to buy or sell without this mark. This means the world will be under extreme consolidation. The movement towards a one world system is going to accelerate rapidly in the years to come. When this man, called the beast, arrives on the world scene the infrastructure for this mark of the beast will already be put in place.

Do we see right now the world system moving towards a one world money system? Do we see this? Of course we do. We see this in the gradual decline in the use of cash. We see this in the use of credit cards, debit cards, and systems of technology. No doubt this system will become more streamlined, and there will arise a digital world currency. We already see this happening with bitcoin and crypto currency. This is all heading towards a one world monetary system which will be cashless.

Look at the Amazon stores now that you can go into and never interact with a checkout. As soon as you pick up items and walk out the door it is automatically detected and through an app in your cell phone the transaction is automatically made through sensors in the store. This is touted as modern convenience. Convenience and security will be the flags of this movement toward having no cash. We also see with the corona virus pandemic how people are scared to use cash now because of a fear in spreading covid-19. No doubt those who are pushing us towards a cashless society will take advantage of these types of fears people have.

Now I'm hearing about what is called a "change shortage". What is that? We are being told that America is having a shortage of quarters, dimes, and nickels? Seriously? This is all part of this move towards a cashless society. They are pushing us, and pulling us toward their new world order.

The mark of the beast is coming. We don't have to be paranoid about this. We won't be tricked into doing this. It will be out in the open, but there will be such a heavy deception that people will not perceive the evil that is behind it, just like what we see happening today. People are deceived by convenience, or security issues, or health issues. The trap is being laid, and eventually this trap is going to spring shut upon the entire planet. No one on this planet earth will escape this satanic web.

The only ones who will discern what is happening are Christians who are walking in the Holy Spirit. Get saved today, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Our only hope in these last days is the Holy Spirit to provide for us, and protect us, and to be our portion forever.

Chapter 14

The Lamb and the 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5)

Previously we read about this 144,000 who were sealed in their foreheads. Now we discover what that seal looks like. It is the name of the Lamb of God and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. They belong to Jesus completely.

Again, John hears the voice from heaven and there is the sound of harps and singing. These 144,000 which were sealed sing praises to God and before the living creatures and the elders. No one but those 140,000 sealed could sing this song.

This group is described as virgins meaning they are completely set apart and sanctified to the Lord. They are not in agreement with the harlotry and idolatry of the world system. They completely live in dependence upon God as their provider, protector, and portion forever. This is a group of witnesses for Jesus who do not speak any lie and they are without any blemish.

From the amount of attention this group receives in the book of Revelation I infer they are subject to extraordinary circumstances. These are believers in Jesus living on earth during a time of extreme violence and darkness. The Antichrist directs all of his power at destroying every believer in Jesus. But this 144,000 have special protection from God, and are no doubt serving God in a unique way throughout this 7 years of hell on earth.

Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Three Angels and Babylon's Fall (Revelation 14:6-13)

Three angels fly through the heavens with messages from God to those who are on the earth. The fact men can see and hear these angels should cause us to pause and consider. This will be an unprecedented time in the history of this planet. By this time men will no longer doubt the existence of God and the supernatural. They will see it. They will hear it. Men will still choose, however, to reject the free offer of God's forgiveness through his Son Jesus Christ.

The message of the first angel is "Fear God". This is a call to acknowledge God as our creator, the one who made the heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. This God who created all things is constantly attacked by modern so-called science. You cannot get away from the lying propaganda of evolution, and all of the systems of lies that accompany this lie. But here an angel is exhorting men to fear God and to worship the creator God.

The next angel proclaims the doom of the world system by saying, *"Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."* This Babylon points to government, business, and religious systems which stand in opposition to God. This angel proclaims the doom of government, economic systems, and religious systems which exalt themselves against the God of heaven.

The third angel warns that anyone who receives the mark of the beast will be thrown into hell. Anyone who worships the beast or the image of the beast or receives the mark of the beast will fall under the wrath of God Almighty. They will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. Their torment ascends up forever.

I don't know of a more precise and clear proclamation of the doctrine of hell. Hell is real, and anyone who rejects Jesus Christ is going to burn in that place forever. There is no end to hell. There is no end to the torment of that place.

We have another word of encouragement to the tribulation saints alive on the earth during this time. They need to endure and be patient. God promises they will be blessed who endure to the end. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. God will give them rest from their labors, and their works follow them. They will receive a reward from the Lord for their patience and endurance during this tribulation.

In summary, those who take the mark of the beast are doomed to hell. There is no second chance for anyone who takes the mark of the beast. If you are on earth when this happens it would be better to become a Christian and die than to take the mark of the beast and suffer for eternity in hell fire. The choice is clear. Choose life in Christ even if it means you lose your life on earth.

This choice is before us today. The consequences are the same for anyone today who rejects the gospel. The gospel is easy to understand. Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Harvest of the Earth (Revelation 14:14-20)

The earth is similar to a field planted by a farmer. At harvest time the farmer harvests the crops. Jesus taught parables about the harvest at the end of the age. Here John describes for us a vision of this harvest. The Lord Jesus is on a cloud with a crown on his head and a sickle in his hand. There are also angels involved in this harvest just like Jesus said there would be.

What does it mean when the Lord Jesus starts harvesting the earth? Remember what Jesus taught. The good fruit is gathered into the Father's barn. The bad fruit is cast away. The good fish are collected, the bad fish are thrown out.

There is a set time when the Lord will harvest the earth. Everything in this created earth will come to its conclusion. There will come a final moment and culmination of the history of this earth. The Lord will harvest the earth.

An angel thrusts a sickle into the earth and gathers the vine of the earth. He casts it into the great wine press of the wrath of God. The wine press is trodden outside the city, and blood comes out of the wine press, up to the height of a horses' bridle.

The book of Revelation describes God's wrath upon the earth. It is more than wrath; it is also a harvest. The Lord is looking for ripe fruit.

Make sure your life is bearing the fruit which will remain. See Galatians chapter 5 for the fruit of the Spirit.

How can we bear this fruit? We must be born again, and we must be filled continuously with the Holy Spirit. Put your faith and trust in Jesus and what he accomplished for you through his death, burial, and resurrection.

Chapter 15

The Song of Moses and the Lamb (Revelation 15:1-4)

John sees another sign in heaven. He sees seven more angels which have the seven last plagues. This is pointing toward the last set of seven plagues. Remember, we had seven seals, and then seven trumpets, and finally we have seven bowls of God's wrath. God's wrath is measured, it is methodical, and it has a beginning and an end.

John sees a sea of glass mingled with fire. He sees the tribulation saints in heaven who got the victory over the beast, the image of the beast, the mark of the beast, and the number of his name. They were standing on the sea of glass and had harps of God. How did these tribulation saints get the victory? They probably were martyred for their faith in Christ. They overcome because they did not love their life even unto the death. They were willing to give everything for Jesus Christ.

These tribulation saints sing what is called the song of Moses, and the song of the Lamb. Here are some of the words to this song: "Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."

Notice the repeated mention of the nations. A lot which happens in Revelation is related to Israel, but it is also a description of how God brings the nations into submission to King Jesus. All the nations shall be ruled by the Lord Jesus. He is God's appointed ruler over all the nations.

Psalms 2:10-12, "Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

Remember after the seven years of tribulation Jesus will restore the earth during a thousand year reign on earth. This will be the seventh day of rest for the earth. This will be a time of peace on earth. It will come to an end and then God will create a new heavens and a new earth. However, the kingdom of the Lord Jesus will endure forever and ever, as Daniel the prophet showed us with his vision of a stone made without hands that destroys all the kingdoms of the earth.

Preparation for Judgment (Revelation 15:5-8)

John sees the temple of the tabernacle in heaven opened. Remember God told Moses to make a tabernacle for Israel after the pattern in heaven. There is a tabernacle of the testimony in heaven. John sees it open.

Seven angels come out of the temple, and they have seven plagues. These angels are clothed in pure and white linen and have on their chests golden belts. One of the four beasts gives the seven angels seven bowls of God's wrath.

The temple is filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power. No man was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels was fulfilled.

This is the beginning of the last set of seven plagues from God upon the earth. We had the seven seals, the seven trumpets, and now we see seven angels with seven bowls of God's wrath.

In the next chapter we will get into the specifics of these seven bowls of God's wrath.

My take away here is that everything God does has a specific time and measure. Everything is done in order and is measured. Nothing is out of control. God is over all of his creation, and there is a time for everything. This seven years of tribulation on earth is the time of God's wrath.

How can you escape from God's wrath? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved.

Chapter 16

The First Six Bowls of Wrath (Revelation 16:1-16)

A voice from the temple commands the seven angels to go forth and pour out the bowls of God's wrath upon the earth.

The first angel pours out his vial and a noisome and grievous sore comes upon all men who took the mark of the beast or worshiped the image of the beast.

The second angel pours out his vial on the sea and it becomes as the blood of a dead man and every living soul died in the sea.

The third angel pours out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of water and they become blood.

An angel of the waters proclaims: *"Thou art righteous, oh Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy."*

This reminds me of the scripture which says God is not mocked. Whatever a man sows he shall also reap.

The fourth angel pours out his vial upon the sun and power was given to scorch men with fire. The men who were scorched with the great heat blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues. They did not repent or give God the glory.

The fifth angel pours out his vial upon the seat of the beast, and his kingdom falls into complete darkness, a darkness that causes pain and makes people gnaw their tongues in pain. These unrepentant people blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and sores, and they did not repent of their deeds.

The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the river Euphrates, and it is dried up to make a highway for kings of the east.

Three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of Satan (the dragon), and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. Here we see these three are united in a trinity of evil, which is another of the devil's counterfeits of God.

These spirits of devils work miracles and go forth to the kings of the earth and the whole world to gather them to the battle of the great day of God Almighty.

Jesus says, "*Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*"

God gathers all the nations together for a great battle to a place that in the Hebrew tongue is called Armageddon.

One thing which stands out to me in this passage is how no matter how much people suffered they refused to repent and humble themselves. Suffering only drives them further and further into madness. This is what happens when people harden their hearts and go on stubbornly in their pride. When pain and suffering comes, it only produces blasphemy from them. They have crossed over into darkness and can no longer find their back any longer. It is too late.

Today is the day of salvation. Listen to the Holy Spirit today in the day of God's grace. Seek the Lord while he may yet be found, call upon him while he is near. Forsake your life of unbelief and pride, and humble yourself under God's hand. Put your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved.

The Seventh Bowl of Wrath (Revelation 16:17-21)

Here is the final bowl of the seven bowls of God's wrath. This completes the final set of seven judgments. These 3 sets of seven began with seven seals, moved to seven trumpets, and now concludes with these seven vials of God's wrath.

In this final bowl of God's wrath a great earthquake rocks the planet. Cities across the world fall at once. Mountains are moved out of place, and islands are moved to new locations.

Jerusalem is divided into three parts and the cities of the nations fall. Great Babylon is now at the center of God's attention and he brings the full weight of his wrath against the system of Babylon on earth.

Also, in this seventh bowl a great hail out of heaven falls upon the earth. Every stone is about the weight of a talent. Men blaspheme God because of this plague of hail, because this plague is exceeding great.

Notice it says this vial is poured out into the air. This reminds me that the Bible exposes Satan as the prince of the power of the air. A voice from heaven says, "It is done." The kingdom of the devil is crumbling and will pass away completely.

A new day is coming. It is the day of the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.

Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Chapter 17

The Woman on the Beast (Revelation 17:1-5)

One of the angels which had the seven vials of God's wrath came to John to show him the judgment of the great whore who sits upon many waters. This whore committed fornication with the kings of the earth and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

John was carried away by the spirit into the wilderness where he saw a woman sitting upon a scarlet colored beast full of the names of blasphemy having seven heads and ten horns.

The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color and was decked with gold and precious stones and pearls and had a gold cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.

Upon her head was a name written: "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

This vision of the woman riding the beast symbolizes false religion which works with the Antichrist to form a one world order. Probably the clearest manifestation of this in today's world is the Roman Catholic church, but it is also seen in every false religion which tries to organize and unify itself through a false peace and a false unity. This is how the devil will unite people in the last days. He will use a counterfeit religion which pretends to be Christianity, or pretends to be Judaism, or pretends to be Islam, or pretends itself to be any other false religion on planet earth today.

These false religions work hand in hand with the Babylonian world system that will culminate in the Antichrist system in the seven year tribulation.

There is no more dangerous thing in the world to destroy men's lives either spiritually or physically as that of this woman who rides the beast. She is the poison that infiltrates every church on this planet and tries to turn men away from simple faith in Jesus to some ritual, or tradition, or spiritual law. She is the inventor of such things as 12 step programs. She is the inspiration for false religion, and cults, and every compromising, backslidden, unbelieving church in the world.

The only protection against this woman riding the beast in these last days is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The only protection we have is the Spirit of truth in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Mystery Explained (Revelation 17:6-13)

This woman riding the beast is drunk with the blood of the saints and the martyrs of Jesus.

John is horrified at the sight of this woman. What has killed more Christians than anything else? False religion. False Christianity as represented by the Roman Catholic church is one. Others are Islam, and Judaism. These religions have killed more Christians than anything else.

Those who kill Christians in the name of God are the most common way Christians are persecuted and killed. Jesus saw it and said it would happen. He told his disciples that they would be persecuted and

killed. He told them not to be afraid of those who can kill the body, but fear God instead. We are to fear God who has power not only to kill the body but also to cast a man into hell.

That is exactly where this woman riding the beast is heading. She is heading to the lake of fire. As we shall see, though, this system of religion is destroyed by the ones it helps to create the one world order. Eventually the government and business arms of the one world order turn on this religious branch and destroy it.

The mystery revealed is that this beast is the Antichrist who receives his power from ten other kings. These ten other kings might be head of nations, or also I've wondered if they might be the CEO's of ten powerful corporations who rule the world behind the scenes in the last days. I know there are corporations that exist today that are as powerful and wealthy as nations.

Here we see the spiritual reality behind this Antichrist. What animates this man is an evil spirit that shall ascend out of the bottomless pit but will go into perdition. Everyone on the earth who does not have their name written in the Lamb's book of life will be in awe of this man of sin.

These kings which give the Antichrist power have one mind and give their power and strength to the beast. This phrase "have one mind" is interesting, as it implies a complete unity in evil purpose and desire.

For more background on these kings and their relationship to the Antichrist you can read the book of the prophet Daniel. He also points to these kings and describes them as various beasts, and also exposes this man of sin who speaks great blasphemy.

Now is the time to be saved, before all of these horrible things happen on the earth. Now is the day of salvation. Call upon the name of Jesus and be saved. Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Everyone who calls upon the name of Jesus will be saved.

The Victory of the Lamb (Revelation 17:14-18)

The enemy attempts to fight against the Lord Jesus Christ. However, as the scripture makes plain here, the Lamb shall overcome them. All he has to do is open his mouth and speak and the beast and the false prophet will be put down. Jesus Christ is Lord of lords, and he is King of kings. Those who are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Now we understand the waters which the whore of Babylon sat upon were actually people, multitudes, and nations, and tongues. The Bible interprets itself many times just like this. We see a vision with symbols, but if you continue reading the Bible you will receive the interpretation for those symbols and types.

Here we see those ten kings with the beast will turn against the whore and make her desolate and naked. In the end, all religion, true or false, is put down by the man of sin so that everyone will worship him alone. The time will come when he will not tolerate anyone worshiping anything else but him.

It is God himself who puts it into the hearts of these ten kings to fulfill his will and to give their kingdoms to this beast, so that the words of God shall be fulfilled. No matter what the devil tries to do it is still God who allows and orchestrates all of these events during this seven years of tribulation.

The woman is also represented by a great city which reigns over the kings of the earth. This shows the power of false religion in world government and in the business world. But the time will come when religious power will be destroyed in favor of economic, political, and military power.

Now is the time to be saved. Today is the day of salvation. Call on the name of the Lord Jesus today and receive forgiveness of sins.

Chapter 18

Babylon Is Fallen (Revelation 18:1-8)

As we see in this chapter Babylon is more than religious power or political power, but is also the economic or business world which is Babylon. In the last chapter Babylon was represented by a false religious system that worked with the nations of the world. Here we see Babylon represented as a city of commerce and trading. Some have said this may be New York, but I see it as representative of the entire business world which exists within this Babylonian framework. Remember, the world system which man built in cooperation with Satan is government, business, and society. (1 John 2). Here we see the fall of the business part of the world system.

John sees another angel come down from heaven with great power and the earth is illuminated by his glory. He cries with a loud voice and proclaims the downfall of Babylon. He says Babylon is fallen and is a house of devils, a hold of foul spirits, a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. All nations drank the wine of the wrath of her fornication. The kings of the earth committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth became rich through her abundance.

John hears another voice from heaven, saying, *"Come out of her, my people, that you do not participate in her sins, and that you do not receive her plagues. Her sins reached heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities."*

Babylon worshiped herself, but she shall fall in one day. Death, mourning, and famine shall come to Babylon and she shall be utterly burned with fire. Strong is the Lord God who judges her.

This command to come out of Babylon is repeated throughout the Bible. It is a call for God's people to separate themselves from the spirit of the world system. We are not to walk in agreement with a system that operates by the pride of man, that promotes covetousness, and is controlled by the lust of the flesh. We are to separate ourselves, and our goal while still in this world is to be ambassadors for Christ. We have been given the commission of the word of reconciliation. Our job is to witness, testify, and call men to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Our goal is not our own life, or money, or worldly success. Our goal is the same as Jesus Christ. To reconcile men back to God.

This world system is going to burn with fire. Don't walk in agreement with this world system, or you also will find all of your life's work burned up in the fire. (1 Corinthians 3:13)

Lament Over Babylon (Revelation 18:9-20)

John sees the end of economic Babylon. The end of this world system in the business part of it ("the lust of the eyes"), will be destroyed swiftly. The downfall of economic Babylon will be swift and sudden. From the description of this city which falls suddenly and is burned with fire one may wonder if a nuclear bomb is dropped on the city.

When I read these verses I always think about New York City, and years ago the prediction by a preacher in that city that New York would be destroyed suddenly by nuclear bombs from the north sent from Russia.

A time is coming when the world economy will suddenly collapse and will never recover. These verses go into great detail describing all of the facets of the economy.

At the end of this description heaven rejoices because God has avenged his holy apostles and prophets. It is interesting that the world economic system is set in contrast to God's holy apostles and prophets. Why does the world system hate God's prophets so much? Because they preach the same message Jesus preached. Man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. The rich will be brought down. God will lift up the humble and the poor. But those who have sold their soul to this world system will be burned in the fire.

It is the world who laments the fall of Babylon, but notice how heaven rejoices. The end of this world system will be the beginning of the reign and rule of the true King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus is coming back, and he will rule over all the nations on this planet.

Prepare to meet the Lord. Call on his name today and put your faith in the work which Christ accomplished through his death, burial, and resurrection.

The Doom Of Babylon (Revelation 18:21-24)

John sees a mighty angel take a great stone and cast it into the sea, and the angel proclaims, "Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all."

This is a specific moment which will come when everything this world system has built through business and the economy will be completely finished. It will be destroyed suddenly, like a bomb falling upon a major city and wiped out in a moment. This world economic system will be destroyed completely and will never recover again. After this world economic system is destroyed it will not be coming back.

Next after the end of this world economic system will be the kingdom of God on earth. We will never go back to this system as it is right now. No more will men make a great name for themselves and build corporations and assign men numbers in order to control them and subjugate men into bondage to idolatry and covetousness. This fallen economic system we live in today will be destroyed and will never come back again.

Notice how this world economic system is tied directly into the murder of God's prophets and saints. The reason why God's prophets are killed is a result of the way this world operates in its economic

system. This is why the Pharisees killed Jesus. He threatened their position, their power, and their pocketbook. If they had accepted Jesus they would have lost their money and power.

The end of this world economic system will be the beginning of what the Bible says about the meek. The meek shall inherit the earth. God's prophets and saints will work for Jesus in his kingdom, and the economy in that kingdom system will have nothing to do with the pride of men, the names of men, or numbering men into subjection and bondage. Everyone will be set free to serve God in love, and each one will love his neighbor as himself. That will be the economy of God on earth. A kingdom of love where each person helps the next one and everyone serves one another in love.

There will only be one name exalted in that day, and his name is exalted above all others. Jesus! King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Chapter 19

Rejoicing In Heaven (Revelation 19:1-5)

Heaven rejoices at the downfall of the world system which is pictured here as the great whore of Babylon. The world system of Babylon is in direct opposition to God and God's Kingdom. Therefore, all of heaven rejoices when God's judgment brings an end to that world system.

How much of this world system is evil? 1 John 5:19, "*...and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*" That is how much of the world system is evil. The entire system from bottom to top is evil. It is built on the foundation of death and hell, and killed God's people at every opportunity.

God is just in destroying this world system. Heaven rejoices at seeing God's justice poured out on this evil world system of government, business, and society. (1 John 2:15-17)

Verse 3 shows us that the smoke of Babylon's doom rose up for ever and ever. There is no end to God's wrath against Babylon. God will always hate and abhor any system that separates man from him. The world system is a counterfeit of who God is. God is Provider, and Protector, and Portion forever.

The world system attempts to counterfeit these attributes. It tries to protect us through government, it tries to provide for us through business, and it establishes self-worship through society (culture, entertainment, arts, false religion).

A voice comes out of the throne saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, and you that fear him, both small and great."

Believers in Jesus are united in rejoicing at God's judgment upon this great whore of Babylon. We rejoice because this satanic system which pretends to be God is thrown down and destroyed. The smoke of its destruction will rise forever and ever.

Come out of Babylon. Repent of your attitude of independence from God. Return to the Lord and confess that Jesus Christ is your provider, he is your protector, and he is your portion forever. This is

summed up for us in the prayer which the Lord taught his disciples. Go back and read it again, and understand the meaning of those words. (Luke 11:1-4)

The Marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:6-10)

Here we can see that there is an event which takes place which is called the marriage supper of the Lamb. A marriage supper means that the bride and bride's groom are now brought together as husband and wife. This is the event at which the church and the Lord Jesus Christ are united together. We are united in a time of great celebration.

There is a voice of a great multitude, as the voice of many waters, as the voice of mighty thunder, saying, "*Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*" I heard a pastor preach a message one time on that bible verse, and it stuck in my head, so that many times when I am praising the Lord I will proclaim: "*For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!*" This is a truth we should get into our spirit. It will take you through many trials in life to know that God is always in control.

A mention is made here of the fine linen of the bride, clean and white. The fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And the saints have no righteousness but that which is imputed unto them by the Lamb of God through his death, burial, and resurrection. Every born again Christian who loves Jesus is part of this multitude who is dressed in this white raiment. These are the overcomers, who put their faith and trust in Jesus alone for salvation.

Praise God for we have been invited to this marriage supper of the Lamb! Who will come and dine? Who will hear the message, and believe the gospel? Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Those who hear, and receive, and believe will eventually find themselves seated at the great marriage supper of the Lamb.

John was overwhelmed and fell down at the feet of the angel. But the angel exhorts John not to do that, but instead to worship God. Then the angel says to John, "for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

What is the testimony of Jesus? The Lord Jesus gave himself for us. He purchased us in his own blood upon the cross of Calvary. He died for us, and he was buried in a tomb. On the third day he rose from the dead, and he ascended back to his Father in heaven. He lives forever interceding for us and praying for us. He will return to this earth and reign over the nations. He is King of kings, and he is Lord of lords. He lives forever!

Call on the name of the Lord. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Rider on the White Horse (Revelation 19:11-16)

John sees heaven opened and a white horse appears. On the white horse is the one called Faithful and True. In righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are as a flame of fire and on his head many crowns and he has a name written that no man knows but he himself. He is clothed with a vesture dipped in blood and his name is called The Word of God.

The armies of heaven follow him upon white horses clothed in fine linen, white and clean. From this description we know this is not just angels but this is the redeemed saints with the Lord at this battle.

Out of the Lord's mouth goes a sharp sword and with it he smites the nations. He shall rule them with a rod of iron, and he treads the wine press of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

On his vesture and on his thigh is a name written: "*KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*"

This is the second coming of Jesus Christ. He is coming back to wage war against all of the nations on this planet, and he will bring them under submission. He will cast down the world system of the beast, the false prophet, and the devil. He comes back to execute the wrath of God against fallen man and against the devil.

He is KING OF KINGS. He is LORD OF LORDS. No one will ever take his place. He is God's King forever and ever.

Every knee shall bow. Every tongue shall confess. Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Defeat of the Beast and False Prophet (Revelation 19:17-21)

At the second coming of Jesus Christ the Antichrist and false prophet are gathered with their armies to do battle against the Lord Jesus Christ. But they will fail in a spectacular fashion. The Antichrist and the false prophet are cast alive into the lake of fire. All of the armies of the devil are destroyed by the sword of God coming out of the mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

An angel bids for all of the birds of the air to come and eat the flesh of those who fall in this battle. All the kings of the earth are put down in this battle, and the birds eat upon the flesh of kings, and captains, and mighty men, and horses, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

The beast is taken, and the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, which deceived them that received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

The remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth, and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

This Antichrist has a very short time on the earth, and his doom at the return of Jesus Christ is swift and final. The Antichrist and the false prophet find their eternal doom in the lake of fire.

Chapter 20

Satan Bound (Revelation 20:1-6)

An angel from heaven comes down with a key to the bottomless pit and also with a great chain. He laid hold on the dragon, the serpent, the Devil, and Satan. These are all names or descriptions of that one enemy of God and man. He is bound with this chain and thrown into the bottomless pit for one thousand years. He is not allowed to deceive the nations for one thousand years. After the thousand years he will be let loose one final time for a short while before he is thrown into the lake of fire forever.

John saw thrones and those who sat upon them and judgment was given to them. John saw the souls of those who were beheaded for their witness for Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast, his image, or received his mark in their forehead or hands. These overcomers reign with Christ for a thousand years.

The rest of the dead do not live again until the thousand years are finished. Those who are already alive are part of the first resurrection. Those who are in the first resurrection are blessed and holy and the second death has no power over them. They are priests of God and Christ and shall reign with him a thousand years.

These verses teach us a lot. One lesson here is that of the millennial reign of Christ on earth. The Lord Jesus returns to earth and will reign over the nations for a period of one thousand years. Believers in Christ will also reign with the Lord during that time. The believers who lived during the seven year tribulation are especially remembered here because they were beheaded for their witness and testimony of Jesus Christ. This is a word of encouragement to anyone who suffers like this as a Christian.

Also, we see here the Devil is not an abstract concept of evil but is a personal entity. The Devil is a real creature that exists in the world, and has a specific part to play in the world and will ultimately meet his judgment. It is interesting that the Devil will be taken down by just one angel with a key and a chain. The Lord himself does not deal with the Devil but just sends one angel to take him out.

There is a literal bottomless pit. Some think this might be the center of the earth. It could be, or could be a spiritual dimension also. He is cut off from being able to influence mankind during the thousand year reign of Christ on the earth. However, at the end of that thousand years he will be let out one last time to deceive the nations in a final confrontation between God and man at Jerusalem.

Those who do not have part in the first resurrection are those who will suffer from the second death. The second death is basically complete separation from God and eternal damnation in the lake of fire.

If you put your faith in Jesus and call upon the name of the Lord you can be saved from that second death. Those who are born once will die twice, but those who are born twice will only die once. Be born again today, receive Jesus Christ into your heart, and be saved.

Satan Cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:7-10)

After the thousand years of Christ's reign Satan is loosed from his prison. He goes out and deceives the nations in the four quarters of the earth. He gathers them together to battle. The number of people who join him is as the sand of the sea.

These followers of Satan compass the camp of the saints and the city of Jerusalem. Fire comes down from God out of heaven, and devours this Satanic army.

The devil who deceived them is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Again, we understand the reign of Christ on earth is a literal thousand year reign. However, his kingdom never ends. The thousand year reign of Christ on earth is just the beginning of God's kingdom that endures forever.

Satan is released from the bottomless pit back to the earth. When he arrives he immediately deceives nations and multitudes of people. This tells me that though men live in a paradise on earth for a thousand years under the Lord they still seek to rebel against Jesus at their first chance. This shows the utter depravity of man in his natural state. If a man is not born again by the Holy Spirit he always rebels against God. Man left to himself is a fallen creature and always turns away from God.

Why does God allow Satan this final opportunity? One purpose might be to prove forever that man is lost without God. Even if man is given a perfect government on earth he still rebels against his Creator. This proves once and for all that man's problem is not his environment or education. Men are born sinners and need the Savior Jesus Christ to give them eternal life. Without Jesus we are doomed to the lake of fire.

The devil has a specific destination. He is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. This is also the destination of every person who rejects Jesus and follows the devil.

If there was a multitude who came up to Jerusalem to make war then who were these saints in God's camp in Jerusalem? I believe they are the last remnant God takes. They are people saved by faith in Jesus during the thousand year kingdom. They put their faith in Jesus, and at this last battle they fled to Jerusalem to escape the armies of Satan. God took a remnant during the time of Israel, he took a remnant during the church age, and he takes one last remnant of people at the end. There are three people, but they are united in one body. Just as God is three in one, so also God's people are three in one.

God is three in one. Prophet, priest, and king. Israel, church, and the nations. Three days, and then all will be complete in the New Jerusalem.

Judgment before the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11-15)

John sees a great white throne. God is sitting upon his throne and the earth and heaven run away from him because there is found no place for them. Creation itself gives way before the presence of God Almighty.

John sees the dead, small and great, stand before God. This is the final judgment of man. This is an event no one will miss. Every person in the world stands before the Lord at judgment. Every one shall give an account of himself to God.

The dead were judged out of those things written in the books according to their works. This means people are judged according to what they did in this life. When men reject God's free offer of salvation through Jesus Christ then they have to stand before God and justify their own self through their good works. The problem is that no one could ever do enough good works to atone for their sins. The most fundamental and horrible sin we can commit is to reject God's Son Jesus Christ. Those who appear before God at this judgment on the basis of their own good works will be rejected. These dead who are judged by their works are heading to the lake of fire.

The sea gives up the dead, and death and hell deliver up their dead, and all of these dead people are judged according to their works.

Death and hell are cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. This lake of fire represents the final separation from God. There is no hope of return for anyone who is cast into this lake of fire.

Anyone who is not found written in the book of life is cast into the lake of fire.

How do you get your name written in the book of life?

There is only one way. His name is Jesus. Jesus is the only way to have life. It is only by putting your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior that you can have your name entered into this book of life. This book belongs to the Lamb of God. If you belong to him your name will be in that book.

I earnestly plead with you today to humble your heart and confess that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior. Believe in your heart today that Christ died for your sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Chapter 21

A New Heaven and a New Earth (Revelation 21:1-8)

John sees a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth passed away. And there was no more sea.

John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. He heard a great voice out of heaven that said, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."

God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. There shall be no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain. Those things have passed away.

He who sat on the throne said, "*Behold, I make all things new. Write: for these words are true and faithful.*"

Jesus is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. He gives to anyone who is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Verse 7 is an amazing promise: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

There is also a dreadful declaration in verse 8 which we need to take to heart, because it will happen just as God said it will be: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and

idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Again, we see clearly that the second death is this lake of fire. And we see the people who are going there. They are fearful (cowards), and they are unbelieving (they reject the Bible and Jesus), they are whoremongers (sexual immorality), and sorcerers (witchcraft, horoscope, mediums, spiritists, diviners, necromancy, etc), and idolaters (those who give themselves over to the love of money and power), and ALL LIARS (people who reject the Spirit of Truth and who live as if God does not exist). These people are in the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Do not let another day go by without bowing your knee to the Lord Jesus Christ. Humble yourself, believe the gospel, and be saved. Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved.

The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:9-27)

John saw the New Jerusalem, the great city of God coming down from God out of heaven. We have a detailed and vivid description here of this city. Notice how much exact detail is given. We even have the measurements of this city. This city is real. It is just as real as anything right now that you can see, hear, and touch. This city is real. It is the city of God.

One of the seven angels who had the seven last plagues in the bowls comes to John to show him the city. The angel calls the city the bride, the Lamb's wife. The angel carried John away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed John that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

This city is made of valuable and precious materials, stones and gems and gold and glass. It has a great high wall, and has twelve gates, and the names of the twelve tribes are over each of those twelve gates. The names of the twelve apostles of Jesus are in the twelve foundations of the city.

There is no temple in the city because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. There is no need of the sun or the moon to shine in it because the glory of God lights up this city. The Lamb is the light of the city.

The nations of those who are saved shall walk in the light of the city. The kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into the city. The gates are not shut by day and there shall be no night there. They shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.

No one who defiles or works abomination or who lies will enter this city. Only those whose names are written down in the Lamb's book of life shall enter this city.

This New Jerusalem is the destination of every born again child of God. This will be our eternal destination and home. We will be with the Lord forever and ever in his house. Amen.

Chapter 22

The River of Life (Revelation 22:1-5)

John sees a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. On either side of the river were trees which bore fruit a various fruit for life every month, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There is no more curse there, but the throne of God and the Lamb of God shall be there and his servants shall serve him. They shall see his face and his name is in their foreheads. There is no night there and they need no candle nor light of the sun because the Lord God gives them light and they shall reign for ever and ever.

I've given this river a lot of thought. Jesus mentions water of life a few times in the gospels, and also Ezekiel records a river of life that was flowing as well. Some compare this river to the Holy Spirit flowing everywhere and giving people life. I think there is literally a river in heaven just like John describes. It is a river of life that gives life to people and there are trees there with the fruit of life and the leaves are for healing nations.

I think it is interesting how the nations are mentioned in connection to these trees. We have spent much time examining God's relationship to Israel or to the church, but have not given much thought to God's dealing with the nations. I think that in the millennial kingdom of Christ there is going to be another remnant which God will take from the nations. God is going to teach mankind true spiritual government and authority in his kingdom. The leaves of these trees will be for the healing of those nations. What do they need to be healed from? Men need to be healed from the thinking and brain washing of this current world system that is inspired by Satan and men who are in agreement with the devil. The nations need to be healed from the way of thinking that controls man today in this current world system.

We will learn a new way of thinking in God's kingdom, and it is much different from the way that people operate today in this current world system. God's kingdom is not based on the pride of man or men making a name for themselves. Instead, God's Kingdom is based on His Son Jesus Christ. Everything will flow forth from the King. Man was not made to live independently from God. For thousands of years on this earth man has tried to live successfully without his Creator. God will demonstrate to mankind that this is impossible.

Jesus Is Coming (Revelation 22:6-17)

Jesus tells John that he is coming quickly. A blessing is pronounced upon anyone who keeps the sayings of the prophecy of this book of Revelation. An angel rebukes John for falling down to worship him and tells him to worship God. He also tells John not to seal up this book because these things must shortly come to pass.

Again, Jesus repeats the admonition that he is coming quickly. His reward is with him to give to every man according as his work shall be. Jesus is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Blessed are those who do God's commandments that they might have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Outside the city are dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, idolaters, and whoever loves and makes lies.

The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hears say, Come. Let him that is thirsty come. Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

This is an urgent invitations for people to come to Jesus, put their faith in him, receive salvation and eternal life by faith in him. Jesus is the living waters. He is the bread of life. He says here that he is the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Jesus is coming soon! Are you ready? You can be get ready today by trusting in Jesus, calling on his name, and believing the gospel. Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Nothing May Be Added or Removed (Revelation 22:18-21)

John warns anyone who hears the prophecy of this book not to add anything to these words. If any man shall add to these things God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book. If any man shall take away from the words of this book God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

This is a stern warning concerning the word of God and the gospel. Adding to God's word or taking away from God's word can bring eternal destruction to men's souls. This is the most serious business which anyone can enter. We are to be faithful to proclaim the simplicity of the gospel always, and not add to God's word our own fallen opinions. Every time men add to God's word it damages the church. Every time men take away from God's word it hurts God's people. Adding and subtracting from God's word leads people astray. Adding and subtracting from God's word or the gospel is what the devil does to inspire men to build cults and false religions which damn the souls of men.

Read the book of Revelation for yourself and see what God has said to us. I have tried through this commentary to point people back to reading and studying the book of Revelation for one's own self.

Jesus testifies to us: "*Surely I come quickly.*" Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Jesus is coming back to this earth. This concludes my comments on the book of Revelation.

Do you know how to be saved and have your name written down in the Lamb's book of life?

It is as simple as believing the gospel. Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Believe the gospel, receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and tell others the truth about Jesus. Let others know that you are a Christian. Read the Bible, study, meditate, memorize, and obey what you read in God's word. Find fellowship with other Christians.

May the Lord bless you, and keep you, and make his face shine upon, be gracious unto you, and give you peace. Amen.

Mike Kines
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